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Date: October 13, 2004 10:43:10 AM CEST
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Subject: IUGS ELECTRONIC BULLETIN #6

IUGS E-Bulletin #6
March 2004

Please find in this issue of the International Union of Geological Sciences E-Bulletin information on:

- Free Copies of IUGS Publications
- New Adhering Member
- New Affiliated Organization
- ICSU Earth Science Unions Collaborate
- Commission on Stratigraphy (New Stratigraphic Chart)
- New IGCP Projects Approved in 2004
- 52nd Executive Committee Meeting of IUGS
- Free Copies of Episodes
- IUGS Sponsored Research Publication
- Australia and India Intend to Bid for 34th IGC
- IUGS Grants Programme
- High Level Meeting International Year
- GEOSEE

All copies of the E-Bulletin as well as more up to date information is available from the official IUGS website (www.iugs.org).

Free Copies of IUGS Publications

All existing copies of various publications produced by IUGS before 2002 will be distributed free of charge to interested individuals in Florence during the 32nd IGC in August 2004. Please visit the IUGS Booth during the Congress to obtain your own copies.

New Adhering Member

Pending approval of the IUGS Council, the IUGS Executive Committee approved the membership application of Bosnia-Herzegovina as the most recent addition to the country adhering members in the Union. The IUGS now has 116 member countries.

New Affiliated Organization

The application of the Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP) as a new Affiliated Organization to IUGS was widely supported by the IUGS Executive Committee.

ICSU Earth Science Unions Collaborate

The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), International Geographical Union (IGU) and the International Union of Soil

Sciences (IUSS) have embraced a new era of cooperation. In early February the leaderships of each of the four Unions met for two days and implemented a plan to collaborate in future research, policy development, information exchange and to enhance the status of Earth Sciences within ICSU, the professional community and the general public.

Commission on Stratigraphy

The IUGS Executive Committee ratified the following GSSPs and nomenclature requests as tabled by Felix Gradstein (felix.gradstein@nhm.uio.no), chairman of the Union's largest commission, the International Commission on Stratigraphy. These included the base of the Lopingian Series (= upper Permian), base of the Ediacaran (= uppermost Proterozoic period/system), and a new subdivision on the Series level in the Carboniferous System. A new subcommission on the Precambrian was also proposed and approved. A new version of the Stratigraphic Chart will be published through Episodes and will be freely distributed in Italy during the 32nd IGC.

New IGCP Projects Approved in 2004

The Scientific Board of IGCP in Paris approved several new projects for funding (see the IUGS web site) during the review of proposals in February. New projects include: a) Quaternary Land-Ocean Interactions; b) The Rheic Ocean; c) Evolution of Ecosystems and Climate in the Devonian; d) Dryland Change: Past, Present, Future; e) Soil Regeneration with Erosion Products and Other Wastes; f) Global Comparison of Volcanic-hosted Massive Sulphide Districts; and g) Ordovician Palaeogeography and Palaeoclimate. To participate, interested scientists are encouraged to contact the leaders of these projects (see UNESCO website for project leaders and contact details: www.unesco.org).

52nd Executive Committee Meeting of IUGS

The IUGS Executive Committee held its 52nd meeting in Oslo, Norway, March 15-19, 2004 under the generous auspices of the Norwegian National Committee of IUGS. Prior to the meeting, the Nordic Bidding Committee for the 33rd International Geological Congress (2008) sponsored a field trip to Spitsbergen, Svalbard, where the EC was introduced to various aspects of arctic geology, energy resources, and geoenvironmental problems. Details and outcomes of the EC meeting appear on the IUGS website (www.iugs.org), but specific queries can be immediately addressed through the IUGS Secretary General (janwer@cc.geolba.ac.at). Minutes from previous IUGS business meetings are currently available on the IUGS website.

Free Copies of Episodes

The contents of Episodes back to 1998 are now available free of charge in pdf format from the Episodes website (www.episodes.org). New material is being added one year after publication to ensure that paid subscriptions receive precedence. A special issue on the geology of Italy was published in September 2003 in support of the forthcoming 32nd IGC. Please access the IUGS website (www.iugs.org) and respond to the questionnaire which is evaluating the journal Episodes.

IUGS Sponsored Research Publication

All individuals receiving financial support either in total or in part by the IUGS are obligated to publish summaries of their work in the journal Episodes. Proposals for the publication of final

results should be directed to the Geological Society of London. For further information regarding publication requirements for both aspects please contact the IUGS Secretary General (janwer@pdg.at).

Australia and India Intend to Bid for 34th IGC

Representatives from Australia informed the IUGS during the 52nd EC Meeting that the National Committee of Australia intends to submit a proposal to host the 34th IGC in Brisbane, Australia in 2012. For more information contact Dr. Ian Lambert (Ian.Lambert@ga.gov.au). The official submission is anticipated to take place during the 32nd IGC in Florence. Another expression of interest in hosting the 2012 IGC was tabled by Dr. Harsh Gupta on behalf of Hyderabad, India.

IUGS Grants Programme

For 2004 IUGS has decided to fund one excellent project proposal. Questions regarding this project should be directed to the project leaders (see IUGS website for information). All scientists are invited to apply for future research funding through the IUGS Grants Programme for the 2005 year. Application details (format and deadlines) may be obtained from the Secretary General (janwer@cc.geolba.ac.at).

High Level Meeting International Year

IUGS organized a high level meeting regarding the upcoming International Year of Planet Earth in Paris, France this past February in cooperation with UNESCO. Over 180 individuals participated in this event providing overwhelming support to the proposed Year. Official delegates of 58 UNESCO member countries attended including the Director General of UNESCO. China, Russia, Brazil, Argentina, Italy and Jordan gave an immediate and positive endorsement for the activity that is to be tabled by China at the UN General Assembly later this year. For the latest information on the Year please check the website (www.esfs.org).

GEOSEE

The IUGS and IGU have combined forces to promote an umbrella focus group/consortium that will deal with various aspects dealing with the identification, preservation, protection, sustainable development, exploitation and research/education of geoscience heritage. The aim is to limit and reduce duplication of efforts by various groups. Presently a variety of efforts exist including UNESCO's geoparks, ProGeo, European GeoParks, IUGS Geosites, various National Conservancies, geotourist groups, etc. that have unique goals and objectives but all share a common interest regarding geoscience heritage. The first official meeting for this new group will be held in Beijing, China on the occasion of the First International Conference on Geoparks, June 27-29, 2004. For more information regarding the collective initiative, contact pbobrows@nrcan.gc.ca and for information regarding the conference contact dic@cags.net.cn or Chinageoparks@hotmail.com.

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